

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

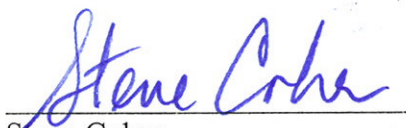
We write to urge you to include a provision that aims to lower our nation's infant mortality rate in the final version of H.R. 3200, "America's Affordable Choices Act." The House Committee on Energy and Commerce recently accepted an amendment to H.R. 3200, which was offered by Chairman Waxman and based on H.R. 3470, *NEWBORN (Nationally Enhancing the Wellbeing of Babies through Outreach and Research Now) Act of 2009*, that addresses the United States' high rate of infant mortality through the creation of pilot programs across the nation.

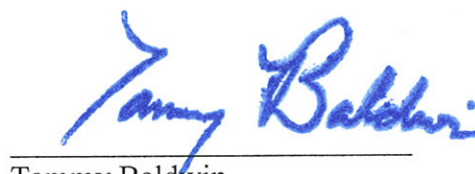
As one of the leading healthcare communities in the world, the infant mortality rates of the United States are deplorable. Every year, there are more than 28,000 deaths to children under 1 year of age each year in America. Our country ranks 29th in the world for infant mortality, a shameful ranking for such a medically advanced nation. It is time that we finally focus our attention on the babies who die every day in our country before their first birthday, due in large part to the lack of pre-natal care, little outreach to young mothers before and after giving birth, and racial disparities in healthcare.

The programs created through the NEWBORN Amendment would be established in the American cities and localities with the highest rates of infant mortality and would be financed through grants given by the Department of Health and Human Services. Each program will focus on providing pre-natal care, community outreach, and educating at-risk and potential mothers about pregnancy and infant mortality. Statistics will be gathered for analysis by the Department and will hopefully lead to a better understanding of this heartbreaking phenomenon.

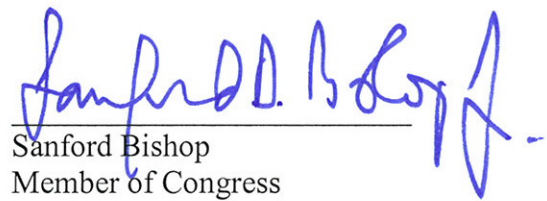
We would like to stress that the NEWBORN Amendment will not raise the price tag of H.R. 3200, as it is funded through the appropriations to the Department. With this important detail and the United States' appalling infant mortality ranking of 29th in the world in mind, we respectfully ask for your support of this provision to be included in final version of H.R. 3200.

Sincerely,

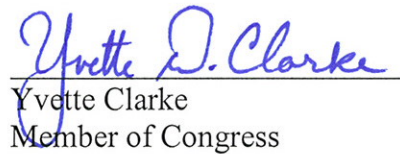

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

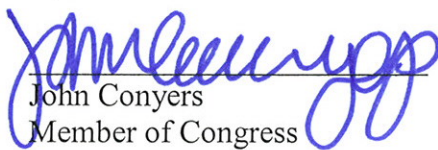

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

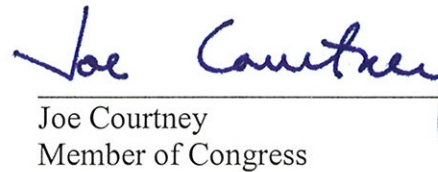

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress


Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

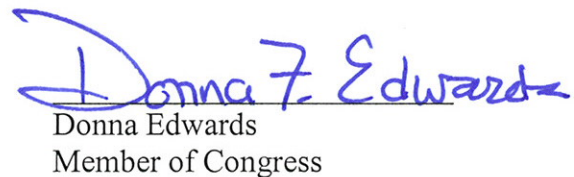

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress


John Conyers
Member of Congress

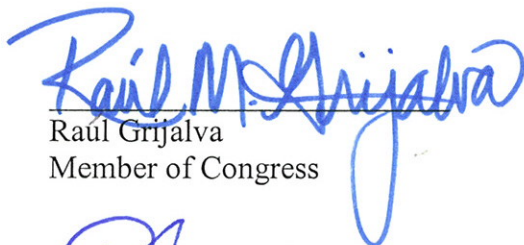

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

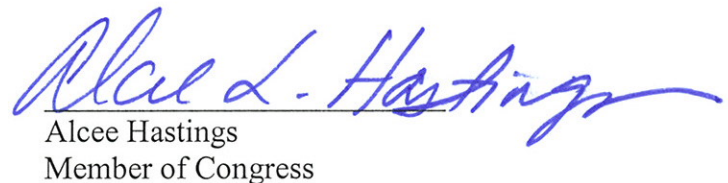

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

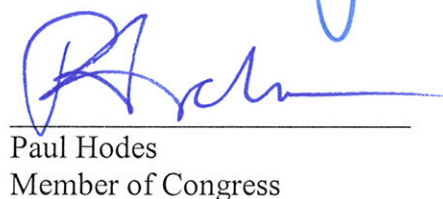

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress


Bob Filner
Member of Congress

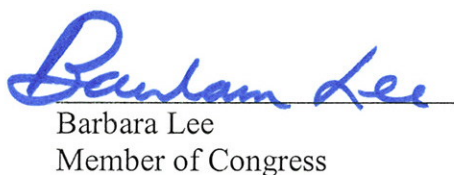

Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress

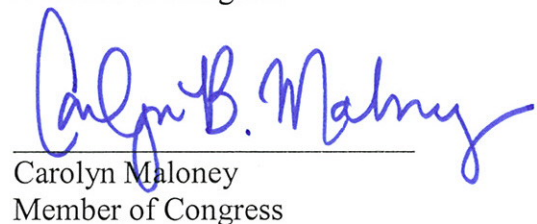

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

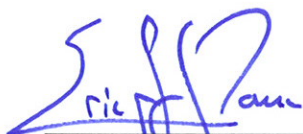

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

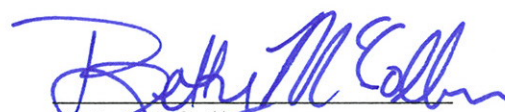

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

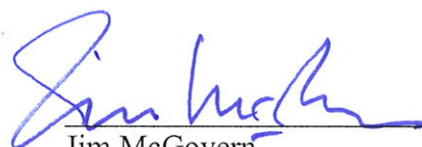

Steve Kagen
Member of Congress

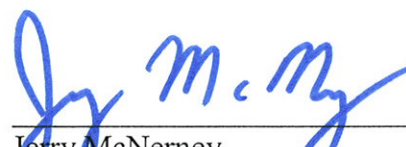

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

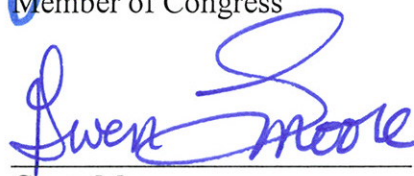

Eric Massa
Member of Congress

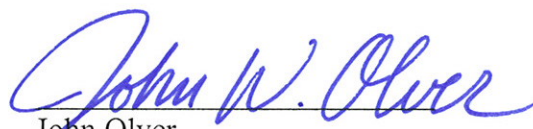

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

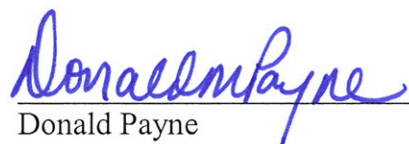

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

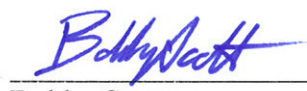

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

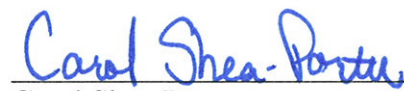

Dennis Moore
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



John Oliver
Member of Congress

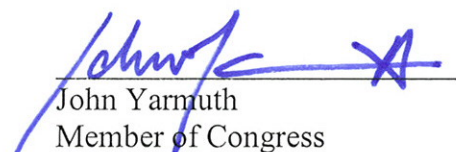

Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Bobby Scott
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman-Schultz
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress